Au Revoir Les Enfants

A young boy named Julien Quentin attends a Catholic boarding school which he is reluctant to return to. Father Jean introduces three new students to the other children. One new pupil’s name is Jean Bonnet who the other children pick on. Whenever they encounter one another they always have something rude to say. Julien is also jealous of Jean’s amazing piano skills.

One night, Julien wakes up and sees Jean with a kippah on. He is praying in a Hebrew language. Julien goes through Jean’s locker to find out his secret. Jean is actually Jewish and his real name is Jean Kippelstein. The three new students were actually Jewish. Father Jean was hiding them in the boarding school so the German soliders wouldn’t bring them to concentration camps.

During a treasure hunt game, Jean and Julien become separated from the group. German soldiers find them and Jean starts to panic. The German soldiers bring them back to the school. On Parents’ Day, Julien’s mother invites Jean to go out with the family. When Julien’s family and Jean go to a restaurant, the Milice arrive and order a man to leave. This causes an uproar. A Wehrmacht orders the Milice to leave after they bother Julien’s brother. When Julien and Jean return to the school Joseph, a cook, is exposed for selling the school’s food to the black market. Sometime later, the Gestapo arrive at the school. They take away Jean, the two other new students, and Father Jean. They were brought to a concentration camp where they died. Before Father Jean was taken away, the students all cried, “Au revoir, mon père!” Father Jean responds, “Au revoir, les enfants! À bientôt!"

Likes

I liked the movie because of the bond Julien and Jean shared. It didn’t matter that Jean was Jewish; the only thing that mattered was their friendship. I also liked how the characters were portrayed. They were not perfect students, but shown to be troublemakers. I also find the era of World War II to be very interesting.

Dislikes

The only thing I disliked in the movie was how quick paced it seemed to be. Some things weren't explained thoroughly and I was confused at some parts. Other than that, it was a very good film.

Le Dîner de Cons

In The Dinner Game, François Pignon is a man who's passion is to make replicas of landscapes out of matchsticks. He meets Pierre Brochant on a train ride. Pignon shows Pierre his work. After the tedious train ride, Pierre realizes Pignon is the perfect idiot for his dinner.

Pierre participates in a dinner game where each guests brings in an idiot. The idiot is usually someone who does something ridiculious, for example Mr. Pignon. At the end of the dinner, the evening's champion idiot is elected.

Pierre starts to suffer from a bad back when his wife leaves him. He decides that he can't go to the dinner game tonight. When Pignon arrives, Pierre wants him to leave. After awhile Pierre allows him to stay because of his bad back and his current relationship problem. Pignon makes many phone calls to help Pierre find his wife; most ending unsuccesfully. During one the phone calls Pignon makes, he finds out that Pierre was having an affair. In another call, Pignon invites a tax inspector to the house. Pierre is forced to quickly hide his valuables before the tax inspector comes. During these events, Pierre is able to reconnect with an old friend who stays with him durig the movie.

Likes

I didn't like the movie very much, but I did like the scene where the tax inspector had dinner in Pierre's house. I also liked how Pignon speaks to Pierre's wife and tries to repair their, Pierre's and her's, broken relationship.

Dislikes

I disliked the movie because for a comedy movie I thought it lacked heavily in the area. Most of the humor was bland and unoriginal. I also thought the character's lacked depth.